



THE INNOVATION CATALYST

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 1

NASA REVISES PATENTING STRATEGIES

NASA's Technology Transfer Program has recently updated key elements of its patent licensing procedure in an agency-wide effort to centralize the screening and assessment of new technologies. These updates introduce a centralized NASA contractor to assess agency-generated inventions for their licensing potential.

What does it mean?

Although NTRs will now be screened and assessed by a centralized contractor, SPO and our Technology Managers will continue to be a primary resource for our innovators, serving as points of contact, communicating with innovators at every stage, and providing assistance and guidance along the way.

NASA will still only seek to patent "technologies that have received a **favorable commercialization assessment**," and the evaluation criteria to make that determination remain largely unchanged. The agency-appointed contractors will be an additional facet of this process, and their reports will include recommendations as to the invention's licensing and commercialization potential.

To recap, here is a breakdown of the Commercialization Assessment:

TRIAGE :

- NTRs will be triaged by two SPO Technology Managers. After triage, NTRs will be given a classification rating of Pursue, Inquire, Monitor, Inactivate, or Software Release.

SCREEN :

- Each NTR with a classification of Pursue will be screened. A Screen report will include a technology description, IP status, inventor-interview summary, as well as a recommendation that includes the technology's *license potential rating*, strengths and weaknesses, as well as a summary and the next steps.

ASSESS :

- NASA will assess NTRs that show *promise for commercial use* after screening. An Assessment report will include a non-enabling description, industry expert interviews, market research, potential licensees, and a *licensing recommendation*.

PATENT :

- NASA will seek to patent NTRs that show *licensing potential*, as determined by the Center Technology Transfer Officers.
- The officers' determination depends on the NTR's *positive commercialization assessment*, *favorable patentability assessment*, or an *acceptable license application*.

Why does it matter?

Innovators and their partners must take note of how these changes may affect the timeline for each stage. Under this new process, it can take **approximately six months** for a submitted NTR to move through the **Triage**, **Screen**, and **Assessment** stages, and this timeline must be taken into account, especially when considering potential **deadlines** for patent filing.

Secondly, **innovators may be contacted to participate** in any part of this process by the **agency-assigned contractor**. In other words, if you are contacted, **make sure to respond and participate accordingly to avoid any delays in the processing of your patents!**

The Strategic Partnerships Office is committed to supporting and assisting our innovators, and our Technology Managers will continue to provide guidance and resources at any stage of this process. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch— we will be happy to assist you!

**General Questions
Main Desk
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techtransfer@gsfc.nasa.gov**

SPO Spotlight: Samantha Kilgore



TITLE:

Technology Liaison Specialist

Role @ SPO:

Marketing Team lead for New Technology Reporting (NTR) in-reach activities, member of the marketing team, communications liaison, Goddard's Awards Liaison Officer, and Goddard's Technology Transfer Expansion (T2X) representative.

FAVORITE PART OF WORK DAY:

Interacting and collaborating with the team, and creative brainstorming sessions.

TIME @ NASA:

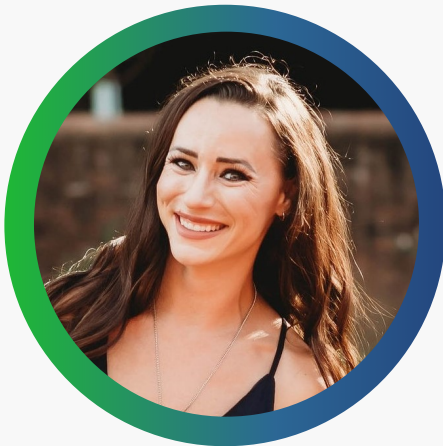
Began as a contractor on the GOES-R Program in 2006. Moved into civil service in 2015 and joined the SPO team in 2016.

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do that thing which you think we cannot".
– Eleanor Roosevelt

MOST OBSCURE TALENT:

Motorcycle wheelies



Health: Poor mental health affects sleep and vice versa. Sleep problems often go hand in hand with mental health issues like anxiety and depression. Taking measures to address other mental health issues can help you get a better night's sleep.

Environment: Temperature, noise, screens, and light can take a great toll on the quality of our sleep. Keeping a diary of environmental factors and how you slept the night before can help you determine if changes should be made.

Attitude: Sleep comes easier when we are in a relaxed mental state. Try winding down from the day with less stimulation and more relaxation. A warm bath, mindfulness, meditation, yoga, or a bedtime tea are all good practices to wind down.

Lifestyle: Your diet can also impact the quality of your sleep. Try to stay away from stimulants (like caffeine), as well as alcohol and sugary products.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration



THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS OFFICE (SPO) PRESENTS

THE LITERARY X-CHANGE

HOW IT WORKS:

Welcome to the book-sharing movement sponsored by SPO! The Literary X-Change belongs to everyone, and everyone can use it.

1

TAKE BOOKS: If you see something you would like to read, take it. When you're finished, share it with a friend or bring it back here.

2

GIVE BOOKS: It's up to everyone to keep the X-Change full. Bring books to share when you can, and continue being a friend of The Literary X-Change.

For more information about SPO, please email
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U P C O M I N G E V E N T S



The Coffee Break - Partnerships Edition: September 21st, 2021
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Advancing Innovation Training: October 6th, 2021, October 13th, 2021, October 20th 2021, October 27th, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Innovator Hour: October 12th, 2021 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Collab Lab: October 28th, 2021 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.